

Newsweek

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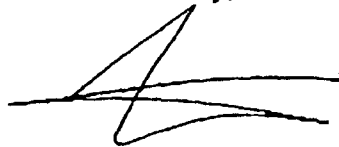
Dorrance Smith
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon, Room 2E556
Washington DC, 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your letter of October 5, with the attached memo "Debunking Newsweek Article on Afghanistan." The thrust of Defense Department position is that you disagree with our analysis of the situation in Afghanistan. You are certainly free and welcome to do so, and we're glad to get your feedback. We'd also be happy to publish a letter to the editor concisely stating your point of view. But I regret that we cannot give you space in the news hole of the magazine to lay out the government position in detail.

If you would like to get together at some point to discuss Afghanistan--or any other issues of interest to you--I'd be happy to do so. I'm newly arrived to Washington (from my previous post as Newsweek's foreign editor), and would be very pleased to meet at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Jeffrey Bartholet